

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated January 12, 2005, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-43 remain pending in the above-referenced application. Claims 1-23, which remain under consideration, stand rejected. Claims 24-43 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. It is respectfully requested that claims 24-43 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting for being drawn to subject matter which is allegedly unpatentable over the subject matter to which claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent 6,006,769 are drawn.

Claims 1-23 have also been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting for reciting subject matter which is purportedly unpatentable over the subject matter recited in claims 8-26 of U.S. Patent 6,196,096.

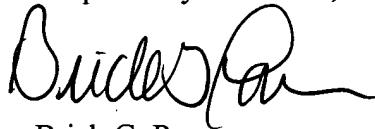
Terminal disclaimers are being filed herewith, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(b) and (c), to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, thereby expediting prosecution of the above-referenced application and avoiding further expense and time delay. The filing of a terminal disclaimer in the above-referenced application should not be construed as acquiescence of the propriety of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

The fees for the terminal disclaimers were already submitted on October 29, 2004.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-23 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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